

Truro Shellfish Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

For

1-26-18

Meeting Called to Order: 3:01pm EST

Members Present: Dan Smith (Vice-Chair), Gary Sharpless (Secretary), Mark Wisotzky, Nick Brown, Dana Pazolt, Steve Wisbauer & Tony Jackett (Truro Shellfish Constable). Invited Participant: Rex McKinsey (Provincetown Harbormaster) and Public: Steve Roderick

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes were reviewed for the 12-8-17 meeting. Mark Wisotzky made a **motion** to approve the minutes as presented. Nick Brown seconded, and the **motion** passed 5-0-0

Review any new ADA Grant Applications, SAC vote and if in favor provide agenda item for next BoS Meeting. Dan Smith handed out two current applications for 5-acre commercial shellfish grant in the town of Truro's ADA area. Since Steve Roderick was there (Truro resident and potential ADA grant holder for growing shellfish) he provide a brief summary of where he was at in getting a boat, ordering equipment and seed to start next season in the ADA. The SAC reviewed his application and Gary asked what he was going to do in the winter. He said he was going to sink the floating Oyster Grows to the bottom and scuba dive to retrieve them in the spring. Mark Wisotzky made a **motion** to approve his grant application and for it to be sent to the BoS for their next meeting and Nick Brown seconded and the **motion** passed 5-0-0. Dan then pointed out a second application from John Burns and Steve pointed out that the end breakaways were not on the drawing, but Dana said that had been corrected on the current copy that would be going to the BoS. Nick made a **motion** to approve his grant application and for it to be sent to the BoS for their next meeting and Mark seconded and the **motion** passed 5-0-0. Dana Pazolt indicated that he would be presenting both of these applications to the BoS on the behalf of the applicants since they would be out of town for the meeting scheduled on February 13th.

Update of discussion of pursuing grant for saltwater ice machine for P-town with P-town Shellfish Constable and Harbormaster – Steve Wisbauer (P-town Shellfish Constable) introduced Rex Mckinsey (P-town Harbormaster) to the committee members and reviewed the previous agenda item of the two towns pursuing a grant for a saltwater ice machine that would be installed on Macmillan Wharf in P-town. Rex indicated that there would be interest in having a 8-ton saltwater ice machine to keep up with the demand of the fish, lobster and shellfish fisherman and would be a very desirable plus for the fishing fleet because it would potentially keep the seafood products fresh going to market. It would be preferable to have two 5-ton saltwater machines to augment the existing 8-ton freshwater machine currently on the wharf. The estimated cost would be about \$100K for the machine, \$5k annual expenses to run/maintain and would provide about \$20-\$30k worth of revenue for the wharf. P-town would own and maintain it and Truro would have the right to purchase as much ice as possible at the prevailing rate. It was also noted in the case of a hurricane or where P-town or Truro lost power this ice could be used to keep food from spoiling for some amount of time and would be available for that use in emergency situations. Rex indicated that he does not have the resources to write or pursue the grant, but would be willing to support it in any way possible.

Update on the use of floating rafts and/or platforms in the ADA with P-town Shellfish Constable and Harbormaster - Steve Wisbauer had brought up the idea of a float that would be used for the ADA as a work platform for the commercial shellfish activity. Rex indicated that he had no problem with having a float or small barge that could be used in the ADA. Currently the ADA regulations do not allow a raft, barge, or float in the ADA to be attached to the Oyster Grow gear. However, it was decided that a barge or float could be towed out and used on the ADA (similar to a vessel) for the day and then towed back in. Everyone agreed that this would make sense and would be up to the oyster growers to be responsible for this float, equipment, maintenance and safe harbor when it was not used.

Update on Soft Shell Clam Seeding Experiment for funding, seed procurement, volunteers and exact timing & area in Pamet Harbor – Since Scott Lindell was not present and the issue of getting seed in time might be an issue, Dan Smith said he would call Scott and ask him about the status of getting the seed in to do this experiment in Pamet Harbor in the spring. Tony Jackett (Truro Harbormaster and Shellfish Constable) indicated that he would be willing to participate, had some clam supplies and had an area up river to pursue this if he could get some help from the committee to do so.

Review updated FAQ's related to Shellfish – Gary Sharpless (Secretary) passed out the hard copies of the FAQ's relating to #14. Shellfish storage and handling (see below). The SAC looked at edits to be incorporated into final version and after some discussion & review between the SAC members it was suggested that these changes be consistent and also be incorporated into the Shellfish Regulations. So the SAC will further review the FAQ and make final changes that will be simplified and consistent with the regulation as well as the information that is currently on the website.

#14. How should I store and safely handle my shellfish?

- Always keep shellfish cool or on ice. Refrigerate at 40 degrees F. A wet towel placed over shellfish will keep a fresh catch alive. Do not submerge shellfish in water to store or keep. Refrigerate oysters with cup facing upwards in a shallow pan.
- Live shellfish will close their shell when handled. Discard broken or gaping shells that do not close when tapped firmly a few times. Discard shellfish that do not open when cooked.
- When opening shellfish, always use a sterilized knife
- *Other items that need to be simplified, reviewed and consistent with other information.*

Review of potential changes to Regulation for Taking of Shellfish, Sea Worms, Eels and Crabs. (Refer to latest regulations dated 1/12/16 for reference). - Gary Sharpless pointed out suggested changes to current Shellfish Regulations that need to be clarified (See below). These changes were suggested to be consistent with the FAQ's and also be incorporated into the Shellfish Regulation. Permit holder can go clamming with other people or children as long as they only take one basket per permit. (Refer to Regulation #2, #3, #10). Again, the SAC will further review the regulations and make final changes that will be simplified and consistent with the information that is currently on the website. And the final changes will be brought before the BoS for a future meeting prior to the opening of the 2018-2019 shellfish season.

- Displaying permit on persons - since sometimes the environment does not allow it to be displayed outside the person because of fear of physically losing the badge in the wind or getting it wet. (Refer to Regulation #3).
- Clarification on the number of sea clams allowed per week with other shellfish (Refer to Regulation #10 a. thru e.).
- *Other items that Shellfish Constable will have jurisdiction over such as opening and closing areas, catch or harvesting limits, etc. TBD.*

Additionally, the SAC decided that it made sense to simplify the regulations to read that a permit holder could only take one basket (or equivalent to one ten-quart bucket of shellfish in the shell) per week. And that the basket could be full of a single species of either oysters or quahog or soft shell clams or razor clams or sea clams – or any combination of species. And as long as it was - one basket per individual permit per week.

Topics for next meeting SAC agenda:

1. Review current Shellfish Regulations and SAC work to simplify and clarify and provide for future agenda item for BoS Meeting before the start of next 2018-2019 season.
2. Review FAQ and other information on the Truro Shellfish website for simplicity and clarity
3. Review status of Soft Shell Clam Seeding experiment for funding, seed procurement, volunteers and exact timing & area in Pamet Harbor.
4. Update of discussion on grant for saltwater ice machine for P-town & Truro between SAC members and decide on next steps - to pursue or not.

Adjourn: Dan Smith made a **motion** to adjourn at 4:55pm. Mark seconded, **motion** passed 5-0-0.



Approved minutes submitted 5-25-18 Garrett C. Sharpless, Secretary, Truro SAC

